

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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*IN RE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001* :

: CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF  
: DEFAULT PURSUANT TO  
: LOCAL CIVIL RULE 55.1  
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: 1:03 MDL 1570 (GBD)(SN)  
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This Document Relates to

Maher, et al. v. Iran, et al.

1:20-cv-00266 (GBD)(SN)

I, RUBY J. KRAJICK, Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, do hereby certify that this action commenced on January 10, 2020 with the filing of a Complaint naming the following as *Maher* Defendants: (1) Islamic Republic of Iran; (2) Iran's Ministry of Information and Security; (3) Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; (4) Iran's Ministry of Petroleum; (5) Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance; (6) Iran's Ministry of Commerce; (7) Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; (8) Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran; (9) National Iranian Oil Company; (10) National Iranian Tanker Company; (11) National Iranian Gas Company; (12) National Iranian Petrochemical Company; (13) Iran Airlines; (14) Hezbollah; (15) Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei; and, (16) the Estate of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Deceased (*Maher* Docket No. 1). In this action , the *Maher* Plaintiffs are proceeding against Defendants Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei and the Estate of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Deceased, only in their Government Official capacities, pursuant to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA").

The *Maher* Plaintiffs' case was formerly captioned "Ryan, et al. v. Iran, et al." The caption was formally changed by Court order on June 28, 2023. See *Maher* Doc. No. 148 (there is no corresponding MDL docket entry).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1608(a), the *Maher* Foreign State and Political Subdivisions of a Foreign State Defendants (hereinafter, "Political Subdivision Defendants") are: (1) Islamic Republic of Iran; (2) Iran's Ministry of Information and Security; (3) Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; (4) Iran's Ministry of Petroleum; (5) Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance; (6) Iran's Ministry of Commerce; (7) Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; and, (8) Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1608(b), the *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality of a Foreign State Defendants (hereinafter, the "Agency and Instrumentality Defendants") are: (1) National Iranian Oil Company; (2) National Iranian Tanker Company; (3) National Iranian Gas Company; (4) National Iranian Petrochemical Company; (5) Iran Airlines; and, (6) Hezbollah; (7) Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei; and, (8) the Estate of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Deceased.

**I. Service By United States Postal Service Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1608(a)(3) and 1608(b)(3)(B).**

Copies of the *Maher* Complaint, dated January 10, 2020 (*Maher* Doc. No. 1), the Summons, dated January 13, 2020 (*Maher* Doc. No. 6), Amended Summons, dated July 31, 2022(*Maher* Doc. No. 17), Notice of Suit, with a copy of the FSIA, individual cover letters, and certified translations of each of these document in Farsi (hereinafter collectively, the *Maher* "Service Documents") were attempted to be served on each of the sixteen (16) *Maher* Defendants via registered mail requesting return receipts through the United States Postal Service ("USPS"), dispatched by the SDNY Clerk of Court in conformity with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1608(a)(3) and 1608(b)(3)(B).

In March of 2021, counsel for the *Maher* Plaintiffs hand-delivered eight (8) packages containing the Service Documents - one for each *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendant - to the Foreign Mailings Clerk of Court for the Southern District of New York. The SDNY Clerk dispatched all eight (8) packages of *Maher* Service Documents to Tehran, Iran, via the United States Postal Service pursuant to FSIA § 1608(a)(3), on March 31, 2021 and April 2, 2021. The eight (8) *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants were all served care of H.E. Mohammad Javad Zarif, then-Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iran on Imam Khomeini Street in Tehran, Iran.

Further, counsel for the *Maher* Plaintiffs hand-delivered nine (9) additional packages containing the Service Documents (one for each *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendant, plus a second Service Documents package directed to an alternate address for *Maher* Defendant the Central Bank of Iran) to the Foreign Mailings Clerk of Court for the SDNY, who docketed and then dispatched all nine (9) packages containing the Service Documents to Tehran, Iran via the USPS, pursuant to FSIA § 1608(b)(3)(B), on March 31, 2021 and April 2, 2021. The eight (8) *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendants were all served at their respective corporate headquarters in Iran or at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iran.

Clerk's Certificates of Mailing were entered on the *Maher* docket on March 31, 2021 and April 8, 2021 certifying that these sixteen (17) packages of Service Documents were sent by the SDNY Clerk's Office on March 31, 2021 and April 2, 2021 by registered U.S. Mail. *See Maher* Doc. Nos. 27-43; MDL Doc. Nos. 6688-6697; 6715-6721.

The *Maher* Plaintiffs did not receive any signed receipts for any of their USPS mailings to Iran. All seventeen (17) packages were returned to counsel for the *Maher* Plaintiffs marked as "Refused" by the addressee. All of the packages had been opened and two of the original

envelopes were returned without any of their contents. *See* redacted photograph of returned envelopes, attached to the *Maher* Affidavit by Dennis G. Pantazis, Esq. in Support of an Application for a Clerk's Certificate of Default, filed on November 8, 2023, at EXHIBIT A.

**II. Service By The United States Department of State Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1608(a)(4) and 1608(b)(3).**

**a. Service on the Maher Political Subdivision Defendants.**

Because none of the *Maher* Defendants accepted service through registered mail and the *Maher* Plaintiffs were unable to perfect service pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1608(a)(3) or 28 U.S.C. §1608(b)(3)(B), copies of the *Maher* Service Documents were subsequently served on all of the *Maher* Defendants through diplomatic channels via the U.S. Department of State, pursuant to the FSIA. The *Maher* Plaintiffs pursued diplomatic service “by sending two copies of the summons and complaint and a notice of suit, together with a translation of each into the official language of the foreign state, by any form of mail requiring a signed receipt, to be addressed and dispatched by the Clerk of the Court to the Secretary of State in Washington, District of Columbia, to the attention of the Director of Special Consular Services - and the Secretary shall transmit one copy of the papers through diplomatic channels to the foreign state and shall send to the clerk of the court a certified copy of the diplomatic note indicating when the papers were transmitted.” 28 U.S.C. §1608(a)(4). In conformity with 28 U.S.C. 1608(a)(4), counsel for the *Maher* Plaintiffs hand-delivered the *Maher* Service Documents again to the SDNY Clerk of Courts to be served upon each of the eight (8) *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants through diplomatic process.

On July 6, 2021, after eight (8) additional packages of *Maher* Service Documents were hand-delivered to the SDNY by Plaintiffs' counsel, the SDNY Clerk of Court sent to the United States Department of State, via Federal Express, in separate packages, the *Maher* Service

Documents to be served upon each of the eight (8) *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants through diplomatic process pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1608(a)(4). These packages were accompanied by eight (8) separate cashiers' checks from Plaintiffs' counsel for the payment of the requisite State Department fees. The Clerk posted notices of these dispatches on the SDNY's *Maher* docket only on July 6, 2021. *Maher* Doc. Nos. 45-52.

The State Department, via the Foreign Interests Section of the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation in Tehran, Iran, attempted diplomatic service of the documents for all eight (8) *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants on April 6, 2022. Such service of process was refused as to all eight (8) *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants that same day. The State Department sent to the Clerk of this Court a letter so stating, together with the Special Authentication Certificates (*a/k/a* "diplomatic notes") demonstrating that such diplomatic service was attempted in accordance with the FSIA and rejected by the *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants. *See* Clerk's Certificates of the State Departments' diplomatic service attempts on the SDNY docket, dated May 25, 2022; *Maher* Doc. Nos. 91-97; MDL Doc. Nos. 8045-8051. (The diplomatic notes for the *Maher* Political Subdivision Defendants are attached to the *Maher* Affidavit by Dennis G. Pantazis, Esq. in Support of an Application for a Clerk's Certificate of Default at EXHIBIT B.)

**b. Service on the *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendants.**

The *Maher* Plaintiffs moved for Letters Rogatory on October 5, 2021, to enable the United States Department of State to serve the *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendants (*Maher* Doc. No. 59, MDL Doc. No. 7171). The Letters Rogatory were granted on October 5, 2021 (*See Maher* Doc. No. 60) and were issued the next day.

On December 8, 2021, Magistrate Judge Netburn issued an order (*Maher* Doc. No. 73, MDL Doc. No. 7440) stating that the United States Supreme Court in *Samantar v. Yousuf*, 560 U.S. 305 (2010), had held that the FSIA governs only claims brought against foreign states, not foreign officials (*citing Strange v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, No. 14-cv-435 (CKK), 2016 WL 10770678, at \*5 (D.D.C. May 6, 2016)). Magistrate Netburn required the *Maher* Plaintiffs to file a supplemental letter indicating, *inter alia*, if the *Maher* Plaintiffs intend to seek damages directly from Defendant Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei and Defendant the Estate of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Deceased. On December 21, 2021 and June 28, 2022, the *Maher* Plaintiffs responded their intent to proceed pursuing a default judgment in this action against these two individual Defendants only in their Government Official capacities, under the FSIA. *Maher* Doc. Nos. 76 and 98, MDL Doc. No. 8153.

Counsel for the *Maher* Plaintiffs again hand-delivered all of the *Maher* Service Documents to the SDNY in early June of 2022, along with the letters rogatory and certified translations thereof. The SDNY Clerk declined to “docket and dispatch” the final set of *Maher* documents to the State Department for diplomatic service due to a change in their foreign mailing procedures. On June 28, 2022, the *Maher* Plaintiffs moved the Court to order the Clerk to record the *Maher* diplomatic service on the docket and then dispatch the *Maher* Service Documents to the State Department (*Maher* Doc. No. 99; MDL Doc. No. 8155).

Thereafter, Judge Netburn issued two (2) orders clarifying the new procedures for *Maher* service on Iranian Agency and Instrumentality Defendants. On June 30, 2022, Magistrate Judge Netburn granted Plaintiffs’ motion and “respectfully directed [the SDNY Clerk] to dispatch the letters rogatory previously issued by this Court, Complaint, Summons, Notice of Suit, a copy of the text of the FSIA, Farsi translations of each document, and certificates of translation and an

individual cover letter for each Defendant, provided by Plaintiffs' counsel, to the United States Department of State for diplomatic service on each [*Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendant]. This shall be done according to the procedures for service on a foreign state or political subdivision set out in 28 U.S.C. § 1608(a)(4). The Clerk of the Court is further respectfully directed to record dispatching these materials on the docket." *Maher* Doc. No. 101; MDL Doc. No. 8163. On July 15, 2022, Magistrate Judge Netburn clarified her earlier order and noted that the Clerk of Court is still directed to docket and dispatch all of the *Maher* Service Documents, but the Court now requires Plaintiffs' counsel to send the Letters Rogatory directly to the State Department. *Maher* Doc. No. 103; MDL Doc. No. 8217.

The *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendants' Service Documents were docketed and dispatched to the State Department by the SDNY Clerk on July 22, 2022. Eight (8) Certificates of Mailing were docketed by the Clerk on July 22, 2022. *Maher* Doc. Nos. 104-111. Counsel for the *Maher* Plaintiffs sent the eight (8) sets of Letters Rogatory, with certified translations, directly to the State Department via Federal Express in accordance with Magistrate Netburn's new orders on July 30, 2022.

Service of the *Maher* Service Documents on the eight (8) *Maher* Agency and Instrumentality Defendants through diplomatic channels was attempted and was immediately refused on January 7, 2023. See Special Authentication Certificates from Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Confederation of Switzerland attesting to delivery attempts on January 7, 2023, attached to the *Maher* Affidavit by Dennis G. Pantazis, Esq. in Support of an Application for a Clerk's Certificate of Default at EXHIBIT C. See also, SDNY Clerk Certificates of attempted service, on *Maher* docket, dated March 2, 2023, without docket numbers.

Service of the *Maher* pleadings on all *Maher* Defendants is now complete.

I further certify that the docket entries at the SDNY indicate that none of the sixteen (16) *Maher* Defendants have filed an Answer or otherwise moved with respect to the Second Amended Complaint.

The default of all sixteen (16) *Maher* Defendants is hereby entered.

Date: November 8, 2023  
New York, New York



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RUBY J. KRAJICK  
Clerk of Court

**EXHIBIT A**

**TO MAHER PLAINTIFFS' PROPOSED CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF DEFAULT**

**PLAINTIFFS' APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF DEFAULT**

**PURSUANT TO LOCAL CIVIL RULE 55.1**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-X

*IN RE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001* :

:  
: **APPLICATION FOR**  
: **CERTIFICATE OF**  
: **DEFAULT PURSUANT TO**  
: **LOCAL CIVIL RULE 55.1**  
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: **1:03 MDL 1570 (GBD)(SN)**  
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**Maher, et al. v. Iran, et al.**

**1:20-cv-00266 (GBD)(SN)**

TO THE CLERK OF COURT:

NOW COME the *Maher* Plaintiffs, through counsel, and respectfully submit this Application for Certificate of Default Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 55.1. Plaintiffs rely on the Affidavit of Dennis G. Pantazis, Esquire, and exhibits thereto, filed contemporaneously herewith, in making this Application.

1. The Defendants upon which the *Maher* Plaintiffs seek a default judgment are the following: (1) Islamic Republic of Iran; (2) Iran's Ministry of Information and Security; (3) Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; (4) Iran's Ministry of Petroleum; (5) Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance; (6) Iran's Ministry of Commerce; (7) Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; (8) Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran; (9) National Iranian Oil Company; (10) National Iranian Tanker Company; (11) National Iranian Gas Company; (12) National Iranian Petrochemical Company; (13) Iran Airlines; (14) Hezbollah; (15) Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei; and, (16) the Estate of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani,

Deceased. The *Maher* Plaintiffs are proceeding against Defendants Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei and the Estate of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Deceased, only in their Government Official capacities, under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1602, *et seq.*

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 8, 2023

/s/

Timothy B. Fleming (DC Bar No. 351114)  
WIGGINS CHILDS PANTAZIS  
FISHER GOLDFARB PLLC  
2202 18th Street, NW, #110  
Washington, D.C. 20009-1813  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 467-4489

Dennis G. Pantazis (AL Bar No. ASB-2216-A59D)  
WIGGINS CHILDS PANTAZIS (*Lead Counsel*)  
FISHER GOLDFARB LLC  
The Kress Building  
301 19th Street North  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
(205) 314-0500

Richard D. Hailey (IN Bar No. 7375-49)  
Mary Beth Ramey (IN Bar No. 5876-49)  
RAMEY & HAILEY  
3905 Vincennes Road #303  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
(317) 582-0000

Robert M. Foote (IL Bar No. 03124325)  
FOOTE, MIELKE, CHAVEZ  
& O'NEIL, LLC  
10 West State Street, Suite 200  
Geneva, IL 60134  
(630) 232-7450

*Attorneys for all of the Maher Plaintiffs*